

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-26 Pending.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Kirk D. Williams on 6/8/2009.

The Claims file 11/08/2008 have been amended as follows:

- a) In Line 10 of Claim 1, after "protected data" delete ':' and insert --received in a corresponding release of the lock message from a previous holder of the lock of the plurality of requestors--
- a) In Line 10 of Claim 1, after "A" insert --tangible--
- b) In Line 1 of Claim 8, after "medium" delete 'tangibly'
- c) In Line 1 of Claim 8, after "protected data" delete ':' and insert --received in a corresponding release of the lock message from a previous holder of the lock of the plurality of requestors--

- d) In Line 10 of Claim 12, after "message;" delete 'and'
- e) In Line 12 of Claim 12, after "protected data" delete '.' and insert --; and sending a second grant message to the second requestor, the second grant message including said protected data received in the first release message.--
- f) In Line 1 of Claim 13, after "claim 12," delete 'comprising sending a second grant message to the second requester' and insert --wherein--
- g) In Line 2 of Claim 13, after "second grant message" delete 'including said protected data, and' and insert --includes--
- h) In Line 1 of Claim 17, after "A" insert --tangible--
- i) In Line 1 of Claim 17, after "medium" delete 'tangibly'
- j) In Line 11 of Claim 17, after "message;" delete 'and'
- k) In Line 13 of Claim 17, after "protected data" insert --; and sending a second grant message to the second requester, the second grant message including said protected data received in the first release message--

- l) In Line 1 of Claim 18, after "wherein" delete 'said steps comprise sending a second grant message to the second requester,'
- m) In Line 13 of Claim 18, after "message" delete 'including said protected data, and' and insert --includes--
- n) In Line 9 of Claim 22, after "message;" delete 'and'
- o) In Line 11 of Claim 22, after "protected data" insert --; and means for sending a second grant message to the second requester, the second grant message including said protected data received in the first release message--
- p) In Line 1 of Claim 23, after "claim 22," delete 'comprising means for sending a second grant message to the second requester,' and insert --wherein--
- p) In Line 103 of Claim 23, after "message" delete 'including said protected data, and' and insert --includes--

Response to Arguments

- 3. Applicant's arguments see Pre-Appeal Conference Request, filed 5/18/2009, with respect to Claims 1-29 have been fully considered and in combination with arguments

presented and amendments discussed in a telephonic interview conducted with Kirk D. Williams on 6/8/2009 are persuasive. The rejection of Claims 1-29 has been withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claim 1-26 allowed.

5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art neither teaches nor suggests the limitation of receiving the protected data at the lock manager in lock release messages from the releasing requester and receiving the protected data at the requesters in grant messages from the lock manager in combination with all other intervening claims. Examiner notes that this limitation exists in each of the independent claims 1, 6, 8, 10, 12, 17, and 22.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Points of Contact

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael J. Hicks whose telephone number is (571) 272-2670. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 9:00a - 5:30p.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Neveen Abel-Jalil can be reached at (571)272-4074. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Michael J Hicks
Art Unit 2165
Phone: (571) 272-2670
Fax: (571) 273-2670

/Neeven Abel-Jalil/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2165